

AN ACT

relating to funding under the transportation allotment for public school students subject to a high risk of violence while walking to school.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 42.155, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (d-1) and (d-2) to read as follows:

(d) A district or county may apply for and on approval of the commissioner receive an additional amount of up to 10 percent of its regular transportation allotment to be used for the transportation of children living within two miles of the school they attend who would be subject to hazardous traffic conditions or a high risk of violence if they walked to school.

(d-1) For purposes of Subsection (d), each ~~Each~~ board of trustees shall provide to the commissioner an explanation ~~the definition~~ of the hazardous traffic conditions or areas presenting a high risk of violence applicable to that district and shall identify the specific hazardous or high-risk areas for which the allocation is requested. A hazardous traffic condition exists where no walkway is provided and children must walk along or cross a freeway or expressway, an underpass, an overpass or a bridge, an uncontrolled major traffic artery, an industrial or commercial area, or another comparable condition. An area presents a high risk

1 of violence if law enforcement records indicate a high incidence of
2 violent crimes in the area. Each board of trustees requesting funds
3 for an area presenting a high risk of violence must, in addition to
4 the explanation required by this subsection, provide the
5 commissioner with consolidated law enforcement records that
6 document violent crimes identified by reporting agencies within the
7 relevant jurisdiction.

8 (d-2) A district or county may use all or part of any funds
9 received under Subsection (d) to support community walking
10 transportation programs, including walking school bus programs,
11 provided that the district or county requires each supported
12 program to submit a financial report to the district or county each
13 semester that covers services provided by the program for the
14 benefit of the district or county. The commissioner shall adopt
15 rules governing the transportation allotment as necessary to permit
16 a district or county to receive funds under Subsection (d) that may
17 be used to support innovative school safety projects, including
18 community walking transportation programs as provided by this
19 subsection and any other appropriate safety project, including
20 rules defining an approved walking route mile that may be used as
21 necessary in implementing this subsection.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 195 passed the Senate on May 8, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 22, Nays 9; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 22, Nays 9.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 195 passed the House, with amendment, on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 90, Nays 55, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor